

60,446-244; 03ZFM046

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0031] as follows:

[31] The controller 60 also uses the reference data to achieve consistent vehicle acceleration behavior during drive-offs. The controller 60 ~~determined~~ determines the amount of torque needed to initiate vehicle movement and determines the torque increase rate for the desired vehicle acceleration. These torque and torque rate determinations are based on such factors as actual vehicle weight, actual drive-off gear, actual drive-off gradient, and/or any other such factors known in the art. The controller 60 utilizes the torque and torque rate determinations to modify the clutch engagement rates. By considering these factors in the engagement and disengagement strategy, a minimum response time and maximum drive-off comfort are achieved.

Please amend paragraph [0032] as follows:

[32] As discussed above, the controller 60 monitors the changes in the reference data and the modified clutch engagement speeds over the life of the clutch assembly 50. The controller 60 can use this information to predict the useful life of the clutch assembly 50. The controller 60 can periodically warn or advise the vehicle operator that service is required. This allows the vehicle operator to perform service operations as needed, avoiding expensive component failures and vehicle down time.